



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/712,239	11/13/2003	Rajeev Chhabra	9103M	8603
27752 7590 04/03/2007 THE PROCTER & GAMBLE COMPANY INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY DIVISION WINTON HILL BUSINESS CENTER - BOX 161 6110 CENTER HILL AVENUE CINCINNATI, OH 45224			EXAMINER MATZEK, MATTHEW D	
			ART UNIT 1771	PAPER NUMBER
SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE		MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE	
3 MONTHS		04/03/2007	PAPER	

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/712,239

Applicant(s)

CHHABRA ET AL. ✓

Examiner

Matthew D. Matzek

Art Unit

1771

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 17 January 2007.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 12-18 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 13 November 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____

- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

Response to Amendment

1. The amendment and arguments dated 1/17/2007 have been fully considered and entered into the Record. Claims 1-18 are currently pending, but claims 12-18 have been withdrawn from prosecution. Claims 1-11 are currently active.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

2. Claims 1-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over DOBRIN et al. (US 6,383,431 B1) in view of SMITH (US 3,616,157) as set forth in the Office Action 10/17/2007. The rejection is provided here for easy reference.

a. DOBRIN et al. disclose a method for modifying the physical characteristics of a nonwoven fibrous web, which involves passing the web between at least one pair of inter-engaged rolls to incrementally stretch the web, and then withdrawing the incrementally stretched web from between the rolls under tension. (Abstract) The reference relates to disposable absorbent articles. The reference teaches a nonwoven material with a deformation pattern in the form of ridges and grooves defining an array of spaced, diamond-shaped elements 100 with intervening un-deformed areas 102. (Col. 12, lines 2-24; Figures 10-11). Figures 10 and 11 show the patterns of the forming rolls that are transferred into the nonwoven web. It is the Examiner's interpretation that that first and second regions of the present invention are provided by the Dobrin reference. (Refer to Figures). The reference shows in its examples nonwoven materials with basis weight ranging from 27-33 gsm and it teaches structures that comprise carded webs, spun

Art Unit: 1771

bonded webs, SMS, among others. (Refer to Table I and Cols. 14-18) DOBRIN '431 teaches that the preferred nonwoven, fibrous web material can have an initial thickness of from about 5 mils to about 40 mils [0.1270-1.0160 mm]. (Refer to Col. 7, lines 29-30) Further, the reference teaches that the modified web thickness is from about 85% to about 400% of the initial web thickness (caliper). (Refer to Col. 3, lines 47-48). DOBRIN is silent as to the locking of the protruding elements in the second region by the reinforcing means of the present invention.

b. SMITH is directed to an embossed nonwoven fabric having a textured character and fabric-like qualities of softness and had and suitable for wiping surfaces having aqueous liquids. (Abstract) Figure 4, shows a configuration in which the embossed nonwoven fabric 26 is used for wiping or cleaning purposes and areas 22 (similar to the second portions of the present invention) are reinforced by thermal bonding. (Refer to Col. 3, lines 31-45)

c. Since both references are directed to nonwoven materials useful in the production of disposable absorbent materials the purpose disclosed by SMITH would have been recognized in the pertinent art of DOBRIN.

d. It would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to modify the second portions of DOBRIN and provide them with thermal bonding with the motivation of enhancing the wiping and cleaning efficiency of the material by having the second portions in more intimate contact with the surface to be wiped as taught by SMITH. (Refer to Col. 3, lines 40-42).

Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments filed 1/17/2007 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

4. Applicant continues to assert that SMITH, the secondary reference, teaches the compacting of areas as opposed to the creation of strained areas. As such, the combination of DORBIN and SMITH does not result in "a strained region forming a protruding element locked by a reinforcing means" as claimed. As Examiner Torres stated in the previous response to this argument, the primary reference of DORBIN et al. provides a similar texturing method that includes incremental stretching similar to that described by the present invention that produced similar protruding elements. Therefore, it is still the Examiner's position that the claimed strained regions are present in the combined article and are provided by the DORBIN et al. reference. The Examiner has relied on the secondary reference of SMITH to further provide the material of DOBRIN et al. with a reinforcing mean by way of thermal bonding to enhance the wiping and cleaning efficiency of the material of DOBRIN et al. It is noted that the strained region is present in the primary reference of DOBRIN et al. and the Examiner is relying on SMITH et al. to provide the material with thermal bonding. Therefore, claims 1 to 11 remain rejected over the combination of DOBRIN et al. in view of SMITH et al. as stated above.

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO**

Art Unit: 1771

MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

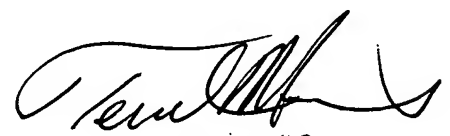
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Matthew D. Matzek whose telephone number is 571.272.2423. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 9-5:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Terrel Morris can be reached on 571.272.1478. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

mdm

MDM



TERREL MORRIS
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 1700